

WEST VIRGINIA BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT COUNCIL

Thursday, July 16, 2009 @ 9:00 a.m.

The meeting of the West Virginia Broadband Deployment Council was held in Building 6, Room 6A on Thursday, July 16, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

The following members participated:

Kelley Goes, Chair
Jimmy Gianato
Elaine Harris
B. Keith Fulton (via phone)
Dr. Jan Fox (via phone)
Lee Fisher (via phone)
Michael Keleman
Sarah Smith, representing the Governor
Sonia Chambers
Tony Sereda

Additional participants:

Andrea Rayl
Ross Lewis
Kenneth Williams, Jr.
Mark Polen
Marcel Fortin
Vicki Allen
Brenda Williams
Patrick Pearlman
J.D. Waggoner
Harlan White
Jason Chastain
Frank Seesink
Chris Spradling
Terrell Ellis
Brandy Messer, Senator Rockefeller's Office (via phone)
John Baisden, Senator Rockefeller's Office (via phone)

After a quorum was established, Chair Goes welcomed the Council and called the meeting to order.

Business

Chair Goes asked for the approval of the minutes from the June meeting of the Broadband Deployment Council. The Council approved the minutes with no objection.

Other Business

Chair Goes asked the Council for authorization to accept modifications to Kimble's contract. Michael Kelemen moved that the Council accept the modifications, Sonia Chambers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chair Goes updated the Council on a letter sent to providers on July 8, 2009 asking for information to complete a mapping project to help identify underserved or unserved areas of the state that may qualify for funding. Chair Goes stated that a second letter would be sent to providers who had not responded to the initial letter to ask again for information. Chair Goes stated that the maps and other information would soon be on the State's ARRA website.

Chair Goes gave a summary of the NOFA, the timeline for filing the application and the process once the application has been submitted. Jimmy Gianato stated that the timeline is very short. Tony Sereda asked if the deadline for applications might be extended; Chair Goes stated that she did not think that there would be any extensions. Chair Goes briefly went through the timeline for the process. She stated that all applications would be due in August 2009, the second round would be completed in December 2009, the third round in March 2010 and that all funding would be distributed by September 2010. Chair Goes explained that if the application meets the requirement, then it would be brought before multiple 3-member panel reviews, then if approved it would be sent to the Governor for a ranking of the importance of the projects.

Michael Kelemen inquired about the possibility of one combined state application. Chair Goes stated that the only state application would be for infrastructure that the state needs for libraries, higher education, etcetera.

Elaine Harris stated that she was not sure that applicants knew what they were getting into. Chair Goes agreed and stated that it seemed many projects are being reconsidered in light of the NOFA requirements. Chair Goes noted that it was important to still apply because even if the application is rejected that the feedback provided will be valuable.

Public Comment

Patrick Pearlman suggested that if the Council doesn't get the information asked for from the providers that they should consider consumer surveys. Chair Goes stated that due to the short timeline for the application process that there just is not enough time for consumer surveys to be conducted.

Adjournment

The next meeting will be noticed for August 12, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting location, call-in number and agenda will be provided prior to the meeting.

With no other business, Elaine Harris moved that the Council adjourn and Michael Kelemen seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:09 a.m.